

now been convicted and pardoned by the President. Mr. Safavian was appointed by the President to take care of Government contracts. He was a dishonest man. He had sweetheart deals with other people, including Jack Abramoff. He was led away from his office in handcuffs and is now in prison.

In the House of Representatives—controlled by the Republicans—the former majority leader of the House of Representatives was convicted three times of ethics violations. They changed the rules for him. He was indicted twice in Texas for crimes. Those are still going forward. A number of Members of the House of Representatives are now in jail; House staff in jail.

The K Street Project. What was the K Street Project? What it was: If you were a lobbyist downtown, you had to do what DeLay and the boys in the House wanted you to do or you could not get a job down there. They had to approve who was hired on K Street. That is what we call the “lobbyist fiefdom.”

So there was a reason the nine new Democratic Senators wanted us to move forward quickly on ethics and lobbying reform. S. 1, the first bill we did—the most important bill is listed No. 1—was ethics and lobbying reform; and we passed it. It has been passed. It is the most sweeping ethics and lobbying reform in the history of our country.

I have said publicly, I say again in front of one of the nine new Democratic Senators, thank you for bringing to Washington a new culture. Yesterday, when that passed, we are in that new culture now.

We have sent to the President benchmarks to measure progress in Iraq. We sent to the President and funded mine-resistant combat vehicles. We sent to the President legislation giving the National Guard the equipment they need. The President went to the gulf—Katrina—and looked at it 22 times, I am told. But he would not give them any money. We forced the President to take what we wanted to give him in the supplemental appropriations bill—\$7 billion. And we got that to the gulf victims.

We got disaster relief for small businesses and farms—3 years overdue. Wildfires are burning in the West as we speak. In Nevada, last week, we had 20 fires burning at the same time. We have one fire we share with the State of Idaho that is approaching a million acres burning. We got wildfire relief.

We were able to pass a law preserving the U.S. attorneys’ independence. Why did we do it? Well, they were firing U.S. attorneys. The Presiding Officer was a U.S. attorney. There is an old saying in the law: What are you trying to do, make a Federal case out of it? Why did we say that? Because U.S. attorneys make cases you cannot beat most of the time.

But these U.S. attorneys, under this administration—under this corrupt administration—had to do what this ad-

ministration wanted them to do or they had to go look for a new job. We do not know the full extent of what U.S. attorneys did because of political pressure from Karl Rove and others at the White House. I do not know if we will ever know. We know some of it.

What else have we passed? A pay raise for our troops, making college education more affordable. We passed in our reconciliation bill the most significant change in college education since the GI Bill of Rights. We passed CAFE standards, raising the fuel efficiency of vehicles for the first time in 25 years.

We passed, recently—first of all, in the supplemental appropriations bill, we funded SCHIP, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, until the 1st of October. And here, yesterday, we passed health insurance for children. The Wounded Warriors legislation passed; a balanced budget with pay as you go. What does that mean? We passed a budget. The Republicans, for 3 years they had a majority of 55 to 45, and they could not pass a budget. We did it with a majority of 1—50 to 49. It is balanced, it is pay as you go. The Republicans, in the past, ran up these astronomical debts for our country, and did it with red ink.

We do not do that. We gave middle-class tax cuts, extended the child tax cut, gave tax relief for small businesses, funded women’s health. We expanded eligibility for Head Start.

We had 94 hearings addressing the conduct of the war, and it is so important we have done that. As a result, we were able to take a look at the scandals that took place at Walter Reed, where our veterans were being neglected. We have things in progress we have passed and are waiting for conference reports to come back.

We are going to try—we tried to pass it tonight. There was an objection to reauthorizing the FDA, Food and Drug Administration, WRDA, Water Resources Development Act. We passed the competitive legislation that some say is some of the most important legislation passed in this body in decades, making this country more competitive educationally and in the business world.

The President has vetoed important legislation—stem cell research. Giving hope to millions of Americans has been vetoed by the President. The President vetoed timelines for bringing our troops home from Iraq.

And then, of course, we had a number of things blocked by obstructionism of the Republicans—lower priced prescription drugs. We were prevented from being able to vote because we could not get 60 votes, with the obstructionism of the Republicans on the ability of Medicare to negotiate for lower priced drugs. Insurance companies can do it, HMOs can do it but not Medicare. That is wrong, and we have been blocked from doing that.

We were even stopped from doing an Intelligence authorization bill. It is

hard to comprehend, but that is true. This country is at war with the terrorists, but they have prevented us from doing an Intelligence authorization bill; there are a number of agencies in this country that handle our intelligence, our spying, and they stopped us from updating what they need to be able to do.

They twice filibustered antisurge legislation in Iraq, forced 45 cloture votes.

So, Mr. President, we have had a very productive 7 months. I hope we can come back and do more. I have been very happy with the last month or so. It appears bipartisanship is breaking out all over. I hope that can continue. As I said yesterday, when we do something good, there is a lot of credit to go around. When we do not do anything, there is a lot of blame to go around.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I extend my appreciation to our valiant staff. I wish them a very pleasant August. They worked so hard, along with us. We could not do our work without them. Everyone in this body here tonight—from our pages to our Parliamentarians to all the clerks, court reporters, police officers—I appreciate all the work they do.

FDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one thing I failed to mention with FDA, we got a letter from the administration saying: Go to conference on FDA. We tried. It was blocked by three Republicans. They should not have written the letter to me. They should have written it to them.

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL GETTY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to join all our Senate colleagues and the Sergeant-at-Arms in honoring a valued, longtime Senate employee, Hazel Getty. Hazel will retire on August 3 from the Senate after 28 years of faithful and successful service.

For a staff member, Hazel has the unusual distinction of having served everyone in the Senate—Members, officers, staff, the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol, and all their constituencies from her office in the Sergeant-at-Arms Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail, PG&DM, branch. In her role as manager of that department, Hazel has supported the people and processes which yield the many excellent printed products we rely on to inform, persuade and delight. Franked mail, floor charts, posters, the beautiful “Welcome to Washington” books we give to visitors, photocopying, and flag packaging are a few major services provided by Hazel’s department, and there are many more. The extremely high quality of PG&DM products testifies to Hazel’s devotion to excellence, to the Senate, and to the employees who work with her.

Communication with each other and with our constituents is elemental to Senate business and Hazel's group is an essential communication hub here. They are our partners in governance and under Hazel's leadership have performed admirably. We thank Hazel for her leadership and wish her a healthy and happy retirement.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to join the majority leader and associate myself with his remarks regarding the contributions of Hazel Getty to the operation of the U.S. Senate. Hazel has overseen a remarkable advance in the technological capabilities of the Sergeant at Arms' Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail branch. We will all miss Hazel's excellent leadership and gentle nature. We wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

APPLAUDING EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the patriotism and service of the residents of Edmonson County in my home State of Kentucky. Earlier this week, the local Bowling Green, KY, newspaper, the Daily News, published an article entitled "Edmonson Leads U.S. in Army Recruitment." Edmonson County, located in the central part of the State, has the highest percentage of Army recruits in the country—quite an accomplishment, and a wonderful symbol of patriotism and sense of service that is evident not just in Edmonson County, but throughout the Commonwealth. According to the Army, Edmonson County "produced the most enlistments for the Regular Army, Non-Prior Service" as compared to the total national population of 15-24 year olds.

Kentucky has a proud military heritage. The Bluegrass State is home to widely recognized military installations such as Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. Our Guard and Reserve units continue to proudly serve on the front lines of the global war on terror. The people of Edmonson County are carrying on Kentucky's longstanding history of service and are proving their dedication and support as the United States continues to fight the terrorism. I am proud to represent such loyal and selfless citizens.

Mr. President, I ask that the entire Senate join me in expressing great admiration and gratitude to the people of Edmonson County, KY, for their patriotism and service. I ask unanimous consent that the full article from the Daily News be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, July 29, 2007]

EDMONSON LEADS U.S. IN ARMY RECRUITMENT (By Ameerah Cetawayo)

Edmonson County, the home of nationally known Mammoth Cave National Park, made headlines recently for another reason—having the highest percentage of Army recruits in the country.

For every 1,000 young people in the county, about 11 of them decided to join the military in 2006.

For a county of about 12,000 people, the statistics magnify patriotic values, as well as the notion that more people from Edmonson County are leaving for Bowling Green and surrounding areas, according to leaders in the educational and business community.

According to military data analyzed by the National Priorities Project, a nonprofit research organization, Kentucky ranked 27th in the nation for the percentage of Army recruits.

The Army recruited 990 people from the commonwealth last year, about a 3 percent increase from 2005, according to NPP.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Defense said the Army failed to meet its goal of 8,400 recruits for June by about 16 percent, with only 7,031 nationwide joining.

Brian Alexander, principal of Edmonson County High School, said having options for college is one explanation for why Edmonson County ranked high. Alexander said the latest graduating class of a little over 100 earned \$250,000 in scholarships.

"Our kids are looking for opportunities. Right now, the military offers substantial financial opportunity to allow young men and women to pursue post-secondary careers," Alexander said, adding that joining the military also gives young people the opportunity to see different parts of the world.

Take a look at Edmonson County's courthouse in Brownsville and it's easy to see that military organizations are very active in the area, according to Edmonson County Schools Superintendent Patrick Waddell.

"One of the biggest reasons we probably have ranked high in that area is we're a very patriotic county," he said. "The different services of the military are very active in the county. They do a lot of programs that are extracurricular activities in the middle school and high school."

Waddell also said the percentage who go to college or a technical or trade school would be about the same as other districts.

"Being proud of your community and proud of your county and being proud of America, that's a very positive attribute of Edmonson County," Waddell said.

Sarah Childress, executive director of the Edmonson County Chamber of Commerce, said small-town values are alive and well in Edmonson County.

"I'm not saying things are different here, but it may have something to do with the way young people have been raised, to have that instilled in them at a young age, to want to serve their country," Childress said.

The appearance of a lesser amount of opportunities in Edmonson County may be a small factor also, she said.

"Anyone can go to Bowling Green, Louisville and Nashville and find a good job and commute. They can move if they want," Childress said. "We don't have a lot of industry here."

The biggest employer in Edmonson County is the board of education, followed by the county's highway department and local banks, Childress said.

"There is something out there for everybody, and Bowling Green is growing so much and moving even closer to southern Edmonson County," he said. "There is so much industry going on in Bowling Green there is plenty out there for everybody."

Other recruiting and retention statistics for the active and reserve components last month showed:

The Navy finished with 3,999 recruits. Its goal was 3,924. The Marine Corps exceeded its goal by recruiting 4,113 new Marines; its goal was 3,742. The Air Force met its goal of 2,233 recruits.

Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force met or exceeded overall active duty retention missions.

Five of the six reserve components met or exceeded their Reserve forces recruiting goals in June. The Air National Guard was the only reserve component to miss its goal, finishing at 75 percent with 779 of its goal of 1,036. The Army National Guard recruited 5,342 soldiers surpassing its goal of 5,338. The Army Reserve and Navy Reserve finished at 108 percent of their goals with 5,255 and 1,013 recruits, respectively.

The Marine Corps Reserve recruited 1,078 Marines, surpassing its goal of 986 at 109 percent. The Air Force Reserve met its goal of 597 recruits.

Reserve forces retention numbers show Army National Guard retention was 107 percent of the cumulative goal of 26,405, and Air National Guard retention was 98 percent of its cumulative goal of 8,430. Both the Army and Air Guard are currently at 101 percent and 99 percent of their end strength, respectively. Losses in all reserve components for May are well within acceptable limits, according to the DOD.—Source: U.S. Department of Defense

SMALL BUSINESS CHILDREN'S HEALTH EDUCATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the 17th century English writer, Izaak Walton, said—

Look to your health; and if you have it, praise God, and value it next to a good conscience; for health is . . . a blessing that money can't buy.

Today in America, good health is not free. And for many working people, the cost and accessibility of quality health care has become prohibitive.

A decade ago, the Congress and President Clinton made a major downpayment on improving our health care delivery system.

Their new approach was aimed at a gap between children of very low-income families who were covered under Medicaid and children of middle- and upper-income families who could fortunately afford private insurance, usually through their employers.

But between the two, millions of children whose families neither qualify for Medicaid nor can afford private insurance are uninsured.

So in 1997, the Congress passed the Children's Health Insurance Program to fill that void.

When President Clinton signed that legislation into law, he said—

[The program] strengthens our families by extending health insurance coverage to up to 5 million children. By investing \$24 billion, we will be able to provide quality medical care for these children—everything from regular check-ups to major surgery.

I want every child in America to grow up healthy and strong, and this investment takes a major step toward that goal.

Today, 10 years later, the Children's Health Insurance Program has been a smashing success by any measure.

With this innovative program, the number of uninsured children of working families has dropped by almost 35 percent.

Today, 6.6 million children have insurance thanks to this outstanding program.